

Please cancel Claims 2-4, 7, 13, and 35-71, and amend Claims 1, 5, 6, 8-12, and 14-34, as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for an image forming system ~~adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for data stored in a storage unit adapted to store data of a plurality of jobs including first and second jobs, and the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device, the method comprising:~~

~~setting a first or second schedule in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator instructions, the first schedule being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, and at least one of the first and second work flows being a work flow that includes a plurality of process steps performed by using the plurality of devices;~~

~~controlling at least one of the plurality of devices to complete the second work flow for the second job after completing the first work flow for the first job in a case that the first schedule is set; and~~

~~controlling at least one of the plurality of devices to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job in a case that the second schedule is set.~~

which comprises a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device which can print data in a storage unit that can store data of a plurality of jobs including data of a first job and data of a second job which is input after the data of the first job, and a sheet processing device which can execute a sheet process for a sheet printed by the image forming device, comprising:

a scheduling control step suited to set a schedule associated with a plurality of work flows including a first work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the first job, and a second work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the second job; and

an instruction step suited to selectively input a plurality of instructions including first and second instructions,

wherein the scheduling control step includes a step of setting, when the first instruction is input, a first schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job, and a step of setting, when the second instruction is input, a second schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, before completion of the first work flow for the first job; and

further comprising a device control step suited to control, when the first schedule is set, the plurality of devices of the image forming system to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job, and to control, when the second schedule is set, the plurality of devices of the image

forming system to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job,  
before completion of the first work flow for the first job.

2.-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim [2, ~~further comprising:~~]1, wherein the device control step includes a step of controlling [at least one of],  
when the third schedule is set the plurality of devices of the image forming system to execute a work flow in consideration of cost upon [a] processing a job [in a case that the third schedule is set] the image forming system.

6. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim[, 3 ~~further comprising:~~]1 wherein the device control step includes a step of controlling, when the fourth schedule is set, of the plurality of devices of the image forming system to execute a work flow in consideration of quality upon processing a job in ~~a case that the fourth schedule is set~~ the image forming system.

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Currently Amended) A method for an image forming system ~~adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for data stored in~~

a storage unit adapted to store data of a plurality of jobs including first and second jobs, the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device, the method comprising:

setting a first or a second schedule in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator instructions, the first schedule being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, and at least one of the first and second work flows being a work flow that includes a plurality of processing performed by using the plurality of devices;

controlling a user interface unit to inform an operator of schedule information about the first schedule and

controlling the user interface unit to inform the operator of schedule information about the second schedule so that the operator can distinguish from the schedule information about the first schedule.

which comprises a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device which can print data in a storage unit that can store data of a plurality of jobs including data of a first job and data of a second job which is input after the data of the first job, and a sheet processing device which can execute a sheet process for a sheet printed by the image forming device, comprising:

a scheduling control step suited to set a schedule associated with a plurality of work flows including a first work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using

a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the first job, and a second work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the second job; and

an instruction step suited to selectively input a plurality of instructions including first and second instructions,

wherein the scheduling control step includes a step of setting, when the first instruction is input, a first schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job, and a step of setting, when the second instruction is input, a second schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, before completion of the first work flow for the first job; and

further comprising an informing control step of controlling a user interface unit to execute an informing process of schedule information associated with a scheduling result set in the scheduling control step, and

wherein the informing control step includes a step of controlling the user interface unit to inform different kinds of schedule information depending on whether the first or second instruction is input.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for an image forming system ~~adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for data stored in a storage unit adapted to store data of a plurality of jobs including first and second jobs, the sheet~~

processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device, the method comprising:

setting a first or a second schedule in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator instructions, the first schedule being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, and at least one of the first and second work flows being a work flow that includes a plurality of processing performed by using the plurality of devices;

controlling a user interface unit to provide first schedule information in a case that the first schedule is set, wherein the first schedule information allows an operator to identify completion of the second work flow for the second job after completion of the first work flow for the first job; and

controlling the user interface unit to provide second schedule information in a case that the second schedule is set, wherein the second schedule information allow the operator to identify completion of the second work flow for the second job before completion of the first work flow for the first job.

which comprises a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device which can print data in a storage unit that can store data of a plurality of jobs including data of a first job and data of a second job which is input after the data of the first job, and a sheet processing device which can execute a sheet process for a sheet printed by the image forming device, comprising:

a scheduling control step suited to set a schedule associated with a plurality of work flows including a first work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the first job, and a second work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the second job; and

an instruction step suited to selectively input a plurality of instructions including first and second instructions,

wherein the scheduling control step includes a step of setting, when the first instruction is input, a first schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job, and a step of setting, when the second instruction is input, a second schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, before completion of the first work flow for the first job; and

wherein the informing control step includes steps of:

controlling, when the first instruction is input, the user interface unit to execute an informing process of first schedule information that allows a user to identify that it is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job; and

controlling, when the second instruction is input, the user interface unit to execute an informing process of second schedule information that allows a user to identify that it is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, before completion of the first work flow for the first job.

10. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 9, further comprising: ~~controlling the user interface unit to provide third schedule information in a case that third schedule is set, wherein the third schedule information allows the operator to identify performing a work flow in consideration of cost upon processing a job by using at least one of the plurality of devices;~~8, wherein the wherein the informing control step includes a step of controlling, when the third instruction is input, the user interface unit to execute an informing process of third schedule information that allows a user to identify that it is scheduled to execute a work flow in consideration of cost upon processing a job in the image forming system.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 9, further comprising: ~~controlling the user interface unit to provide fourth schedule information in a case that fourth schedule is set, wherein the fourth schedule information allows the operator to identify performing a work flow in consideration of quality upon processing a job by using at least one of the plurality of devices;~~ 8, wherein the informing control step includes a step of controlling, when the fourth instruction is input, the user interface unit to execute an informing process of fourth schedule information that allows a user to identify that it is scheduled to execute a work flow in consideration of quality upon processing a job in the image forming system.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~The method according to Claim 9, wherein the print processing and the sheet processing are included in at least one of~~



~~the first and second work flows, the print processing and the sheet processing being performed sequentially by using the image forming device and the sheet processing device.~~

A method suitable for an image forming system which comprises a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device which can print data in a storage unit that can store data of a plurality of jobs including data of a first job and data of a second job which is input after the data of the first job, and a sheet processing device which can execute a sheet process for a sheet printed by the image forming device, comprising:

a scheduling control step suited to set a schedule associated with a plurality of work flows including a first work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the first job, and a second work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the second job; and

an instruction step suited to selectively input a plurality of instructions including first and second instructions,

wherein the scheduling control step includes a step of setting, when the first instruction is input, a first schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job, and a step of setting, when the second instruction is input, a second schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, before completion of the first work flow for the first job; and

wherein the image forming system has at least one of a device which can execute a job order process, a device which can execute a job edit process, a device which can

execute a job proof process, and a device which can execute a job archiving process, and also the image forming device and the sheet processing device, and

the scheduling control step includes a step of setting a schedule suited to execute a work flow having a plurality of process steps including a print process step using the image forming device and a sheet process step using the sheet processing device.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method suitable for an image forming system adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for a job, the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device, the method comprising:

setting a schedule adapted to complete a work flow for the job in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator instructions, the work flow including the plurality of processing by using the plurality of devices and including operator's intervention work;

controlling a user interface unit to provide first type schedule information about the set schedule, the first type schedule information allows an operator to confirm an execution order of the plurality of process steps to complete the work flow; and

controlling the user interface to inform second type schedule information about the set schedule, the second type schedule information allows the operator to confirm the

operator intervention work to complete the work flow.

which comprises a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device which can print data in a storage unit that can store data of a plurality of jobs including data of a first job and data of a second job which is input after the data of the first job, and a sheet processing device which can execute a sheet process for a sheet printed by the image forming device, comprising:

a scheduling control step suited to set a schedule associated with a plurality of work flows including a first work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the first job, and a second work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the second job; and

an instruction step suited to selectively input a plurality of instructions including first and second instructions,

wherein the scheduling control step includes a step of setting, when the first instruction is input, a first schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job, and a step of setting, when the second instruction is input, a second schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, before completion of the first work flow for the first job; and

wherein the scheduling control step includes a step of setting a schedule suited to execute a work flow including a plurality of process steps using the plurality of devices, and an operator intervention work, and

further comprising an informing control step of controlling a user interface unit to inform schedule information associated with a scheduling result set in the scheduling control step, and

wherein the informing control step includes a step of controlling the user interface unit to inform first type schedule information that allows a user to confirm an execution order of the plurality of process steps using the plurality of devices required to execute the work flow, and controlling the user interface to inform second type schedule information that allows the user to confirm an operator intervention work required to execute the work flow.

15. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 14, ~~further~~ comprising:

wherein the informing control step includes a step of controlling the user interface unit to inform the first type schedule information and then the second type schedule information.

16. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 14, ~~further~~ comprising:

wherein the informing control step includes a step of controlling the user interface unit to inform the second type schedule information and then the first type schedule information.

17. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 14, further

comprising[[:]]

an informing mode selection step of selecting one of a first schedule informing mode of informing the first type schedule information, and a second schedule informing mode of informing the second type schedule information[[:]], and

wherein the informing control step includes a step of controlling the user interface unit to operate in the informing mode selected [[mode]] in the informing mode selection step.

18. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 14, ~~further comprising:~~

wherein the informing control step includes a step of controlling the user interface unit to prompt to input authentication data when the user interface unit informs the second type schedule information of the first type schedule information and the second type schedule information.

19. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 14, ~~further comprising:~~

wherein the informing control step includes a step of controlling the user interface unit to identifiably inform the first type schedule information for respective jobs when the user interface unit informs the first type schedule information of the first type schedule information and the second type schedule information.

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 14, ~~further comprising: wherein the informing control step includes a step of~~ identifiably informing the second type schedule information for respective operators when the user interface unit informs the second type schedule information of the first type schedule information and the second type schedule information.

21. (Currently Amended) A method for an image forming system ~~adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for data stored in a storage unit adapted to store data of a plurality of jobs including first and second jobs, the image forming device having interrupt print function adapted to interrupt printing processing for a job and then perform print processing for another job, and the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device, the method comprising:~~

~~setting a first or a second schedule in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator instructions, the first schedule being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, and at least one of the first and second work flows being a work flow that includes a plurality of processing performed by using the plurality of devices; and~~

~~inhibiting execution of the interrupt print function, when the image~~

~~forming device can not perform an operation to complete the second work flow for the second job after completion of the first work flow for the first job due to execution of the interrupt print function, in a case that the first schedule is set.~~

which comprises a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device which can print data in a storage unit that can store data of a plurality of jobs including data of a first job and data of a second job which is input after the data of the first job, and a sheet processing device which can execute a sheet process for a sheet printed by the image forming device, comprising:

a scheduling control step suited to set a schedule associated with a plurality of work flows including a first work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the first job, and a second work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the second job; and

an instruction step suited to selectively input a plurality of instructions including first and second instructions,

wherein the scheduling control step includes a step of setting, when the first instruction is input, a first schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job, and a step of setting, when the second instruction is input, a second schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, before completion of the first work flow for the first job; and

wherein the image forming device comprises an interrupt print function

which interrupts a print job, a print process of which is in progress, and can execute a print process of another print job, and

said method further comprises a device control step of inhibiting execution of the interrupt print function, when the first schedule is set in the scheduling control step and when the image forming system is not ready to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job.

22. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 21, ~~further comprising:~~

~~permitting execution of the interrupt print function, when the image forming device can perform operation to complete the second work flow for the second job after completion of the first work flow for the first job regardless of execution of the interrupt print function, in a case that the first schedule is set.~~

wherein the image forming device comprises an interrupt print function which interrupts a print job, a print process of which is in progress, and can execute a print process of another print job, and

said method further comprises a device control step of permitting execution of the interrupt print function, when the first schedule is set in the scheduling control step and when the image forming system is ready to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job.

23. (Currently Amended) A method for an image forming system ~~adapted to~~



~~control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for data stored in a storage unit adapted to store data of a plurality of jobs including first and second jobs, the image forming device having an overtake print function adapted to start print processing for a job prior to starting print processing for another job which was received before the job, and the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device, the method comprising:~~

~~setting a first or a second schedule in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator instructions, the first schedule being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, and at least one of the first and second work flows being a work flow that includes a plurality of processing performed by using the plurality of devices; and~~

~~inhibiting execution of the overtake print function, when the image forming device can not perform an operation to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job due to execution of the overtake print function, in a case that the first schedule is set.~~

which comprises a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device which can print data in a storage unit that can store data of a plurality of jobs including data of a first job and data of a second job which is input after the data of the first job, and a sheet processing device which can execute a sheet process for a sheet printed by the image

forming device, comprising:

a scheduling control step suited to set a schedule associated with a plurality of work flows including a first work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the first job, and a second work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the second job; and

an instruction step suited to selectively input a plurality of instructions including first and second instructions,

wherein the scheduling control step includes a step of setting, when the first instruction is input, a first schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job, and a step of setting, when the second instruction is input, a second schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, before completion of the first work flow for the first job; and

wherein the image forming device comprises an overtake print function which can execute a print process of the second print job prior to the first print job upon completion of another print job, a print process of which is in progress, and

said method further comprises a device control step of inhibiting execution of the overtake print function, when the first schedule is set in the scheduling control step and when the image forming system is not ready to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job.

24. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 23, ~~further comprising:~~

~~permitting execution of the overtake print function, when the image forming device can perform operation to complete the second work flow for the second job after completion of the first work flow for the first job regardless of execution of the overtake print function, in a case that the first schedule is set.~~

wherein the image forming device comprises an overtake print which can execute a print process of the second print job prior to the first print job upon completion of another print job, a print process of which is in progress, and

said method further comprises a device control step of permitting execution of the overtake print function, when the first schedule is set in the scheduling control step and when the image forming system is ready to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job.

25. (Currently Amended) A method for an image forming system ~~adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for data stored in a storage unit adapted to store data of a plurality of jobs including first and second jobs, the image forming device having an expanded application function, the expanded application function including any of a facsimile transmission function, a network scanner function, and a preview function, the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device, the method comprising:~~

~~setting a first or a second schedule in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator instructions, the first schedule being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, and at least one of the first and second work flows being a work flow that includes a plurality of processing performed by using the plurality of devices; and~~

~~inhibiting execution of the expanded application function, when the image forming device can not perform an operation to complete the second work flow for the second job after completion of the first work flow for the first job due to execution of the expanded application function, in a case that the first schedule is set.~~

which comprises a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device which can print data in a storage unit that can store data of a plurality of jobs including data of a first job and data of a second job which is input after the data of the first job, and a sheet processing device which can execute a sheet process for a sheet printed by the image forming device, comprising:

a scheduling control step suited to set a schedule associated with a plurality of work flows including a first work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the first job, and a second work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the second job; and

an instruction step suited to selectively input a plurality of instructions

including first and second instructions,

wherein the scheduling control step includes a step of setting, when the first instruction is input, a first schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job, and a step of setting, when the second instruction is input, a second schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, before completion of the first work flow for the first job; and

wherein the image forming device comprises an expanded application function including any of a facsimile transmission function, a network scanner function, and a preview function, and

said method further comprises a device control step of inhibiting execution of the expanded application function, when the first schedule is set in the scheduling control step and when the image forming system is not ready to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job.

26. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 25, ~~further comprising:~~

~~permitting execution of the expanded application function, when the image forming device can not perform an operation to complete the second work flow for the second job after completion of the first work flow for the first job regardless of execution of the expanded application function, in a case that the first schedule is set.~~

wherein the image forming device comprises an expanded application

function including any of a facsimile transmission function, a network scanner function, and a preview function, and

said method further comprises a device control step of permitting execution of the expanded application function, when the first schedule is set in the scheduling control step and when the image forming system is ready to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for an image forming system ~~adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for data stored in a storage unit adapted to store data of a plurality of jobs including first and second jobs, the image forming device having interrupt print function adapted to interrupt printing processing for a job and then perform print processing for another job, and the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device, the method comprising:~~

~~setting a first or a second schedule in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator instructions, the first schedule being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, at least one of the first and second work flows being a work flow that includes a plurality of processing performed by using the plurality of devices; and~~

~~inhibiting execution of the interrupt print function, when the image forming device can not perform an operation to complete the second work flow for the second job before completion of the first work flow for the first job due to execution of the interrupt print function, in a case that the second schedule is set:~~

which comprises a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device which can print data in a storage unit that can store data of a plurality of jobs including data of a first job and data of a second job which is input after the data of the first job, and a sheet processing device which can execute a sheet process for a sheet printed by the image forming device, comprising:

a scheduling control step suited to set a schedule associated with a plurality of work flows including a first work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the first job, and a second work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the second job; and

an instruction step suited to selectively input a plurality of instructions including first and second instructions,

wherein the scheduling control step includes a step of setting, when the first instruction is input, a first schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job, and a step of setting, when the second instruction is input, a second schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, before completion

of the first work flow for the first job; and

wherein the image forming device comprises an interrupt print function which interrupts a print job, a print process of which is in progress, and can execute a print process of another print job, and

said method further comprises a device control step of inhibiting execution of the interrupt print function, when the second schedule is set in the scheduling control step and when a state of the image forming system is a third state in which the image forming system is ready to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, before completion of the first work flow for the first job.

28. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 27, ~~further comprising:~~

~~permitting execution of the interrupt print function, when the image forming device can perform an operation to complete the second work flow for the second job before completion of the first work flow for the first job regardless of execution of the interrupt print function, in a case that the second schedule is set.~~

wherein the image forming device comprises an interrupt print function which interrupts a print job, a print process of which is in progress, and can execute a print process of another print job, and

said method further comprises a device control step of permitting execution of the interrupt print function, when the second schedule is set in the scheduling control step and when the image forming system is not ready to complete the second work flow



for the second job input after the first job, before completion of the first work flow for the first job.

29. (Currently Amended) A method for an image forming system ~~adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for data stored in a storage unit adapted to store data of a plurality of jobs including first and second jobs, the image forming device having an overtake print function adapted to start print processing for a job prior to starting print processing for another job which was received before the job, and the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device, the method comprising:~~

~~setting a first or a second schedule in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator instructions, the first schedule being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, and at least one of the first and second work flows being a work flow that includes a plurality of processing performed by using the plurality of devices; and~~

~~permitting execution of the overtake print function, when the image forming device can perform an operation to complete the second work flow for the second job before completion of the first work flow for the first job regardless of execution of the overtake print function, in a case that the second schedule is set.~~

which comprises a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device which can print data in a storage unit that can store data of a plurality of jobs including data of a first job and data of a second job which is input after the data of the first job, and a sheet processing device which can execute a sheet process for a sheet printed by the image forming device, comprising:

a scheduling control step suited to set a schedule associated with a plurality of work flows including a first work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the first job, and a second work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the second job; and

an instruction step suited to selectively input a plurality of instructions including first and second instructions,

wherein the scheduling control step includes a step of setting, when the first instruction is input, a first schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job, and a step of setting, when the second instruction is input, a second schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, before completion of the first work flow for the first job; and

wherein the image forming device comprises an overtake print which can execute a print process of the second print job prior to the first print job upon completion of another print job, a print process of which is in progress, and

said method further comprises a device control step of permitting

execution of the overtake print function, when the second schedule is set in the scheduling control step and when the image forming system is ready to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, before completion of the first work flow for the first job.

30. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 29, ~~further comprising:~~

~~inhibiting execution of the overtake print function, when the image forming device can not perform an operation to complete the second work flow for the second job before completion of the first work flow for the first job due to execution of the overtake print function, in a case that the second schedule is set.~~

wherein the image forming device comprises an overtake print which can execute a print process of the second print job prior to the first print job upon completion of another print job, a print process of which is in progress, and

said method further comprises a device control step of inhibiting execution of the overtake print function, when the second schedule is set in the scheduling control step and when the image forming system is not ready to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, before completion of the first work flow for the first job.

31. (Currently Amended) A method for an image forming system ~~adapted to control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for data stored in a storage unit adapted to store data of a plurality of jobs including first and second jobs, the~~

~~image forming device having an expanded application function, the expanded application function including any of a facsimile transmission function, a network scanner function, and a preview function, and the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device, the method comprising:~~

~~setting a first or a second schedule in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operators instructions, the first schedule being scheduled to complete a second work flow for the second job after completing a first work flow for the first job, the second schedule being scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job before completing the first work flow for the first job, and at least one of the first and second work flows being a work flow that includes a plurality of processing performed by using the plurality of devices; and~~

~~permitting execution of the expanded application function, when the image forming device can perform an operation to complete the second work flow for the second job before completion of the first work flow for the first job regardless of execution of the expanded application function, in a case that the second schedule is set.~~

which comprises a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device which can print data in a storage unit that can store data of a plurality of jobs including data of a first job and data of a second job which is input after the data of the first job, and a sheet processing device which can execute a sheet process for a sheet printed by the image forming device, comprising:

a scheduling control step suited to set a schedule associated with a plurality of work flows including a first work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using

a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the first job, and a second work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the second job; and

an instruction step suited to selectively input a plurality of instructions including first and second instructions,

wherein the scheduling control step includes a step of setting, when the first instruction is input, a first schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job, and a step of setting, when the second instruction is input, a second schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, before completion of the first work flow for the first job; and

wherein the image forming device comprises an expanded application function including any of a facsimile transmission function, a network scanner function, and a preview function, and

said method further comprises a device control step of permitting execution of the expanded application function, when the second schedule is set in the scheduling control step and when the image forming system is ready to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, before completion of the first work flow for the first job.

32. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 31, ~~further~~ comprising:

~~inhibiting execution of the expanded application function, when the image forming device can not perform an operation to complete the second work flow for the second job before completion of the first work flow for the first job due to execution of the expanded application function, in a case that the second schedule is set:~~

~~wherein the image forming device comprises an expanded application function including any of a facsimile transmission function, a network scanner function, and a preview function, and~~

~~said method further comprises a device control step of inhibiting execution of the expanded application function, when the second schedule is set in the scheduling control step and when the image forming system is not ready to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, before completion of the first work flow for the first job.~~

33. (Currently Amended) A method for an image forming system ~~adapted to~~ control a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device and a sheet processing device, the image forming device being capable of print processing for a job, the sheet processing device being capable of sheet processing for sheets printed by the image forming device,

~~the method comprising:~~

~~setting a schedule adapted to complete a work flow for the job in accordance with a predetermined instruction input by using an input unit adapted to input operator's instruction, the work flow including a plurality of processing by using the plurality of devices and including plural operator's intervention work; and~~

~~controlling a user interface unit to inform an operator of information about the set schedule, the information allows the operator to sequentially confirm the plural operator's intervention work to complete the work flow;~~

which comprises a plurality of devices including at least one of an image forming device which can print data in a storage unit that can store data of a plurality of jobs including data of a first job and data of a second job which is input after the data of the first job, and a sheet processing device which can execute a sheet process for a sheet printed by the image forming device, comprising:

a scheduling control step suited to set a schedule associated with a plurality of work flows including a first work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the first job, and a second work flow that includes a plurality of process steps using a plurality of devices of the image forming system required to complete the second job; and

an instruction step suited to selectively input a plurality of instructions including first and second instructions,

wherein the scheduling control step includes a step of setting, when the first instruction is input, a first schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, after completion of the first work flow for the first job, and a step of setting, when the second instruction is input, a second schedule which is scheduled to complete the second work flow for the second job input after the first job, before completion of the first work flow for the first job; and

wherein the scheduling control step includes a step of setting a schedule

suited to execute a work flow including a plurality of process steps using the plurality of devices,  
and a plurality of intervention works by an operator, and

said method further comprises an informing control step of controlling a  
user interface unit to inform information that allows the operator to confirm an intervention work  
to be done immediately after an intervention work executed by the operator of the plurality of  
intervention works required to execute the work flow.

34. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 33, ~~wherein the~~  
~~user interface unit is provided for a portable terminal which can be carried by the operator.~~  
wherein the informing control step includes a step of controlling a portable terminal which can be  
carried by the operator to inform the information.

35.-75. (Cancelled)